

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,953,348 to *Yanagisawa et al.*

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Claims 1-8 are presently pending.

Applicants submit an Information Disclosure Statement concurrently herewith. A verified translation of Japanese Application P2003-121574, the foreign priority application, is submitted concurrently herewith.

Rejections under 102

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,953,348 to *Yanagisawa et al.* Applicants respectfully submit that *Yanagisawa et al.* should be removed as prior art in the present application under any subsection of 35 U.S.C. § 102.

On April 23, 2004, Applicants filed a Claim of Priority to Japanese Application P2003-121574. A verified translation of Japanese Application P2003-121574 is submitted concurrently herewith. The U.S. filing date of *Yanagisawa et al.* is April 19, 2004 which is after the priority date to which this application is entitled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that

Yanagisawa et al. should be removed considered as prior art in the present application under any subsection of 35 U.S.C. § 102.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully Submitted,

By: 

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Dated: February 10, 2006

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